



The Palmetto



**SOUTH
CAROLINA**

The voice and vision of special education

Special Conference Edition

FROM OUR PRESIDENT ELECT: **SCCEC 2018 Annual Conference**

BY CONSTANCE MAYS, SCCEC PRESIDENT ELECT

Thank you for attending the 2018 SCCEC Annual Conference — “Today’s Teachers Build Tomorrow’s Leaders!” Thank you to the countless number of people who worked tirelessly to help make this an indomitable conference. There is something about being around other professionals and stakeholders who “get it” that helps to renew your commitment to educating ALL children.

Thank you to John Payne and the Office of Special Education Services for your partnership and your commitment to professional development. Thank you also to the volunteers from Chapters 165 for their hard work as conference hosts. Chapter 165 would like to thank all the volunteers who helped run the registration table, served as session hosts, and manned the Silent Auction table. We hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to network with other professional special educators and recharge their teacher batteries.

Thank you to the amazing staff at Marriott Resort and Spa at Grand Dunes for going above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to friends and family who took time off to come lend a helping hand at the conference. Thank you to another historical mark from SCCEC; one of the hardest working conference planning teams ever! Thank you to the members of the SCCEC Executive Committee and Executive Board for your hard work and commitment to the profession. It is a distinct privilege to serve with such a virtuosic team!



CONFERENCE SURVEY: Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback about this year’s conference. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K5GDZTW> to let us know your thoughts on how we can make next year’s conference even better!

PRESENTATIONS FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS: You can find the presentations for breakout sessions in our shared Google Folder. Use this link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H0GM2WbH0ji53FotREL_8DFCiASGEOVv

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES: Please Email Amanda Walkup at anwalkup@gmail.com if you have any questions about attendance certificates. If you need a preconference attendance certificate, please contact the leader of those sessions.

SCCEC 2019 CONFERENCE: The 2019 SCCEC Annual Conference will be held March 1-2, 2019, at Embassy Suites, Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort, 9800 Queensway Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC 29572, (843) 449-0006.

SCCEC CAN: The Policy Panel was held on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Our guest speakers on the panel were Mr. John Payne, Director of the SC Office of Special Education, and Barbara Drayton, Esq. with the Office of General Counsel of the Dept. of Education. They talked about current policies and issues that are important to our state. This year’s session had such prodigious attendance that SCCEC Executive Board will discuss how we can make this session one that includes everyone! There were numerous positive remarks given afterwards which say... WE WANT MORE!

Congratulations, 2017-2018 SCCEC Award Winners



SCCEC was proud to present awards to the 2017-2018 winners at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, February 2, during the annual conference.

The awards committee worked diligently to review all of the nominations of outstanding quality and determine the following to be this year's winners:

ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Leigh Burnette, Nursery Road Elementary School, Lexington Richland Five

GENERAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Chris Register, Sandhills Middle School, Lexington Four

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Damon Barnhill, Central High School, Chesterfield County

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Jackie Bryant, Horry County Schools

PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Calvin Golson, Lexington Richland Five

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Pat Hensley, Chapter 877, member since 1977, Furman University

LAURA MOHR SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Simmons, Columbia College

BETTY BROWN TRAINING GRANT

Steven S. Edgeworth, Central High School, Chesterfield County

YES I CAN!

Thomas Diggs, Chesterfield High School, Chesterfield County

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Lisa Hardwick, Chesterfield High School, Chesterfield County

MINI GRANTS

- Ashley Keith, McBee High School, Chesterfield County – McBee Custom Creations
- Emilee McAbee, Brennen Elementary, Richland One – Table Talk
- Beth Reilly and Brenna Lamprey, Harbison West Elementary, Lexington Richland Five – Project AuSome

SCCEC thanks everyone who completed nominations, commends those who were nominated, and congratulates this year's award winners!



Silent Auction

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our SCCEC Silent Auction. We had some really great items on the auction table this year! Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$1,000 to add to our scholarship programs. Thank you! Thank you!

Our New SCCEC Officers

Welcome to our new SCCEC officers! At the 2018 Representative Assembly, Mary Kennedy was elected as our Vice President and Amanda Walkup was reelected as our Recording Secretary.

Mary is a special education teacher in Lexington 4 and the President-Elect of SCCEC Chapter 165. Amanda is a special education teacher in Greenville County and the current SCCEC Recording Secretary.

Thank you for being willing to serve with us, Amanda and Mary!



MARY KENNEDY



AMANDA WALKUP



Report from National Conference

BY LISA HALTER, SCCEC PRESIDENT

As SCCEC President, thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you at this year's national conference in Tampa, Florida. It was a great week of learning, networking and being able to meet face-to-face with some of our national leaders! I was able to attend some informative sessions on a variety of topics including co-teaching, working with students who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as mindfulness in the classroom. I am excited to take this practical information back to my classroom and the students I serve.

During the week, I had the opportunity to take part in a Town Hall meeting with the Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education.

This meeting focused on "Special Education and Early Intervention Teacher Shortages: Recruitment and Preparation". The representatives from OSERS took this opportunity to hear concerns from leaders in our field, while taking note of some programs and initiatives throughout the nation that are positively impacting the teacher shortage. I feel this is an important conversation we need to be having at the state level, too.

Attending Representative Assembly was a great experience. I really liked the way RA is executed at the

national level. There was a time of collaboration with the delegates, where discussion and information-sharing was encouraged. Revamping the way we run our Representative Assembly in South Carolina is something we could consider in the future, using the model at the national level as our guide. Because teacher shortage and retention is such a hot topic right now, we used a good portion of the meeting sharing ideas with our table groups.

At the President's breakfast, we focused in-depth on the proposed revisions to the National CEC bylaws (<https://www.cec.sped.org/About-Us/CEC-Leadership/Proposed-Bylaws-Amendments>). One of the recommendations is to establish a Leadership Development Committee (LDC). The purpose of the LDC is to recruit, cultivate and identify diverse and

competent volunteer leaders for board and committee positions within our national organization. The LDC will vet and recommend candidates for vacant positions. From the recommendations of the LDC, new Board members will be elected by a majority vote of the sitting Board. These proposed amendments are a big change to CEC's governance structure. As you can imagine, there are a lot of questions and comments from the membership. The Governance Assessment Workgroup and Board of Directors are currently reviewing those comments and concerns, and the CEC Board will be voting on the Bylaws revisions on March 7, 2018. Please know that as changes happen within our parent organization, we will do our best to keep you informed of how this will directly impact us in South Carolina.

Thank you again South Carolina CEC for this amazing opportunity to experience professional development and collaboration at the national level. Next year's national convention is in Indianapolis, Indiana from January 30 through February 2. Mark your calendars — hopefully, I'll see you there!



Photos from the 2017 SCCEC Conference

